

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ACCRA 06847 221620Z  
ACTION CA-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 VOE-00 INSE-00 PPTE-00 SCS-06  
FSE-00 ABF-01 TRSE-00 /019 W  
-----075138 221705Z /46  
P 221344Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5222

UNCLAS ACCRA 6847

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: CGEN  
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR WEST/CENTRAL AFRICAN CONSULAR  
CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 200245, STATE 171816

ACCRA CONSULAR OFFICER WOULD LIKE THE FOLLOWING TOPICS TO BE  
DISCUSSED AT UPCOMING ABIDJAN CONSULAR CONFERENCE:

1. STUDENT VISAS: (A) QUESTION OF WHETHER PROBABLE FUTURE  
DEVALUATIONS OF A COUNTRY'S CURRENCY SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO  
CONSIDERATION CONCERNING F-1 APPLICANTS' ELIGIBILITY UNDER  
12 (A) 15 -- GHANAIAN CURRENCY HAS DEVALUED 50 PERCENT IN PAST  
THREE MONTHS WITH ADDITIONAL DEVALUATION EXPECTED OVER NEXT  
YEAR; (B) QUESTION OF HOW U.S. -ORIGINATED STUDENT LOANS SHOULD  
BE VIEWED IN CONNECTION WITH STUDENTS WHOSE COUNTRIES' SALARY  
STRUCTURES AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONSTRAINTS WOULD FORCE THEM  
TO DEFAULT ON DEBTS OR REMAIN IN U.S. TO PAY OFF LOANS; (C)  
POSSIBILITY OF INSTITUTION OF A NATIONAL EXCHANGE VISITOR  
PROGRAM, WITH LIMITED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR ALL SELECTED STUDENTS,  
TO PROHIBIT BRAIN DRAIN TO U.S. AND MASS CHANGES OF STATUS BY  
STUDENTS UNWILLING TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES.--  
CONSULAR OFFICER HAS RECENTLY BROACHED THIS CONCEPT TO HEAD OF  
I.C.A. AND INFLUENTIAL GHANAIAN EDUCATION FIGURE AND BOTH WERE  
RECEPTIVE TO IT.

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2. INCREASED COOPERATION WITH I.N.S. ON VISA MATTERS: EMBASSY'S  
IV AND NIV FUNCTIONS WOULD BENEFIT FROM INCREASED FLOW OF DATA  
FROM INS TO THE FIELD. COPIES OF I.N.S. DOCUMENTS AND FINDINGS  
CONCERNING DENIALS OF APPLICATIONS FOR CHANGEOF STATUS,  
REFUSALS TO APPROVE I.V. PETITIONS, AND DECISIONS ON APPLICATIONS  
BY STUDENTS REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION TO WORK WOULD ALL INCREASE

EMBASSY'S EFFICIENCY ON VISA MATTERS. FIRST TWO WOULD ASSIST IN COMBATTING VISA FRAUD WHILE, THIRD, IN CONNECTION WITH RECENTLY INSTITUTED SPONSOR FILE, WOULD DENY VISAS UNDER 212 (A) TO (15) STUDENTS WHOSE FAMILIES AND SPONSORS HAVE NOT BEEN SUPPORTING CLOSE RELATIVES IN THE U.S.

3. PRIVACY ACT: QUESTION OF WHETHER POSTS CAN OBTAIN GENERAL PRIVACY ACT AUTHORIZATIONS IN ADVANCE FROM AMCITS TO COMMUNICATE, WHEN NECESSARY, WITH PERSONS INTERESTED IN THEIR WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS. SEVERAL RECENT CASES INVOLVING WORRIED RELATIVES AND EMPLOYEES IN THE U.S. WERE COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT WHILE THE EMBASSY KNEW OF THE W/W OF RESIDENT AMCITS IT COULD NOT CONTACT THEM DIRECTLY FOR AUTHORIZATION TO RESPOND TO THE INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE U.S. HOLMES

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** CGEN  
**To:** STATE  
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